

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PARTIES BACK LEADERS

REF: (A) LISBON 988 (DTG 041855Z FEB 77), (B) LISBON 834
(DTG 311802Z JAN 77), (C) LISBON A-054, (D) LISBON 1147
(DTG 101540Z FEB 77)

SUMMARY: THE THREE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES BACKED THEIR
LEADERS' POLICIES IN WEEKEND MEETINGS. IN PARTICULAR, THE
CENTER DEMOCRAT LEADERSHIP SECURED BACKING FOR CDS COLLABORATION
WITH THE SOCIALISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTIES REAFFIRM THEIR POSITIONS: THE EXECUTIVE ORGANS OF
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THE THREE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES MET OVER THE WEEKEND. THE NATIONAL
COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS BACKED POSITIONS TAKEN BY PARTY LEADERS.
-- PS APPROVES STATUTES: THE SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL
COMMITTEE FEB 12 SUPPORTED SECRETARY-GENERAL MARIO
SOARES'S ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION. THE
COMMITTEE APPROVED REMAINING PARTY STATUTES PROPOSED BY
THE LEADERSHIP AND DEBATED PS LABOR STRATEGY (SEPTTEL).

-- PSD MAINTAINS FIRM OPPOSITION: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NATIONAL COUNCIL FEB 12 PLEDGED TO MAINTAIN ITS POLICY OF "FIRM, BUT NOT SYSTEMATIC OPPOSITION" TO THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO PURSUE AGREEMENT AMONG THE THREE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES LEADING TO A "STABLE MAJORITY GOVERNMENT."

-- CDS REAFFIRMS "CIVILIZED OPPOSITION:" THE CDS NATIONAL COUNCIL, MEETING IN OPORTO FEB 12 AND 13, BACKED PARTY PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL'S DECISION NOT TO CONFRONT THE SOARES GOVERNMENT (REF D). THE CDS PLEDGED TO VOTE FOR OR AGAINST LEGISLATION DEPENDING UPON NATIONAL INTEREST. THE CENTER DEMOCRATS STATED THAT A PS-PSD-CDS COALITION GOVERNMENT IS NOT REALISTIC NOW, BUT CALLED FOR POLITICAL CALM TO ALLOW DIALOGUE AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

2. CUNHAL SEEKS TO CHANGE IMAGE IN ROME: PCP MOUTH-PIECE "O DIARIO" GAVE MAJOR PLAY TO THE "WARM EXCHANGES" BETWEEN ALVARO CUNHAL AND ITALIAN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS DURING CUNHAL'S VISIT TO ROME (REF A). CUNHAL, HOWEVER, DISAVOWED ANY CHANGE IN PCP OBJECTIVES IN A ROME PRESS CONFERENCE. ONE PS INSIDER SPECULATED THAT THE CUNHAL VISIT WAS TIED TO MOSCOW'S EFFORT TO BRING EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES TOGETHER IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PARLIAMENT (REF CL. THE PCP DEMONSTRATED ITS CONTINUED TIES TO MOSCOW IN A FEB 11 STATEMENT OBJECTING TO THE "IMPERIALISTIC AND REACTIONARY OFFENSIVE INTENDED TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." SIMILARLY, THE PCP PICKED UP THE MOSCOW LINE IN PROTESTING THE "REACTIONARY CAMPAIGN" WHICH LED TO A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROTEST AGAINST

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CZECH VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS (REF B).

3. PSD SCORES IN UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS: THE PSD WON THREE RECENT UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS AND FINISHED SECOND TO THE COMMUNISTS IN A FOURTH. THESE RESULTS WILL REINFORCE THE CONVICTION OF PSD LEADERS THAT STEPPED-UP PSD OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT IS PAYING OFF. THE RESULTS:

-- LISBON LAW FACULTY: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH (JSC) FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE SOCIALIST YOUTH (JS).
-- COIMBRA LAW: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH WON BOTH STUDENTS AND TEACHER ELECTIONS.
-- COIMBRA LIBERAL ARTS: A JSD/JS COALITION SWEEPED THE ELECTIONS.
-- LISBON LIBERAL ARTS: THE COMMUNIST STUDENT UNION BEAT SEPARATE JSD AND JS SLATES. A MODERATE SLATE WON THE ELECTION AMONG PROFESSORS.

4. COMMENT: THE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES SECURED SUPPORT FOR POLICIES THEY ARE ALREADY IMPLEMENTING.

IN PARTICULAR, THE CDS LEADERSHIP WEATHERED THE
CHALLENGE FROM ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY DISSATISFIED
WITH THE CENTER DEMOCRAT COLLABORATION WITH THE
SOCIALISTS.
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